

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Amateur Radio

1. There is a radio section for Pioneers (the Communist Youth organization) in the Pionieru Pils (the former castle of the President of Latvia in Riga), where young boys up to the age of 14 learn to build small, simple detector receiving sets. No particulars are available concerning the existence of, or regulations for, amateur radio clubs.
2. Spare parts for simple receiving sets can be obtained, and it is possible to buy such items as tubes and wiring, though with some difficulty because of short supply. It is not known whether this applies also to spare parts for transmitting sets.
3. The ordinary receiving sets in the Latvian SSR operate on current, but battery sets are also in use, especially in country houses. Batteries can sometimes be bought in shops, and they are always obtainable for black market prices from car-drivers or from garages. In the center of Riga the current is AC; on the outskirts of the town it is DC.
4. Every wireless set must be registered at the post office with the name and address of the owner and the type of receiver. There is no trouble or difficulty about registration. The license fee is 60 rubles per year.

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Postal Regulations

Letters

5. Letters (ordinary writing paper in ordinary envelopes) and postcards are used for ordinary internal mail in the Latvian SSR. The post office usually undertakes to forward letters when there has been a change of address.

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Stamps

6. Postage stamps can be bought only at post offices and at newspaper stands.

Registration

7. To send a letter or parcel by registered mail it must be specially marked "Registered" (Ierakstits), and must have the name and address of the sender. The post office then issues a receipt with the registration number of the letter or parcel. The sender is always asked what the parcel contains when it is handed in at the post office. Parcels containing foodstuffs are opened and examined there and then. It is not known whether they are also subject to examination subsequently or elsewhere.

Censorship

8. Letters which have been sent to other parts of the USSR have been less subject to censorship and control than those directed to foreign countries, although the actual evidence of censorship is the otherwise unaccountable delay in delivery.

Telegraph and Telephone CommunicationsTelegrams

9. No identity check is made when a person sends an ordinary inland telegram. Plain language must be used, however.

Telephones

10. In Riga there are telephone kiosks at street corners, but they are for local calls only and cannot be used for long-distance calls. To make a long-distance call from a public phone it is necessary to go to a post office and put in the call from there. For this there is no identity check, but, of course, if one ask the exchange (colloquially it is known as "the post office") for a long-distance call on his own telephone, he must give his number.

Telephone Directories

11. Riga has a telephone directory which contains the surname and name (sometimes only the initials) and the telephone number of the subscriber but does not give the address. The directory is not to be found in the public telephone kiosks but is available to the public at the post office. There is no provincial directory.
12. When making a long distance call to a subscriber whose number is not known, an individual may go to the post office, make an inquiry, and receive an answer stating the desired number within five or 10 minutes. In the event that the person to whom one wishes to speak has no telephone, it is possible to notify the post office 24 hours in advance that one wishes to make the call, and that person will be invited to his local post office at the specified time to take the long-distance call.

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